

PROGRAM MEMO

To: Holders of Title 390, Protection and Safety #3-2006

From: Todd Reckling, Administrator
Office of Protection and Safety

Signed by: _____, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Date

RE: Use of Genograms and Eco-maps

Effective: March 1, 2006

Duration: Until regulation is issued.

Contact person: If you have questions regarding this program memo, contact Lori Harder, Administrator, Office of Protection and Safety at (402) 471-9733 or lori.harder@hhss.ne.gov

Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to insure that a genogram and eco-map will be completed with each family we serve to make certain that we document the relationship roadmap of the family and to assist us in identifying both the formal and informal supports available to each family.

Effective March 1, 2006, all Protection and Safety Workers are required to complete a genogram and eco-map with each family entering the system. In addition, each service area must develop a plan to insure the completion of genograms and eco-maps by September 1, 2006 with the families already receiving services from our division.

Genograms and Eco-maps serve as a visual documentation of the family's interactive communication and support structures. Genograms assist in record keeping, treatment planning, prevention, building rapport, identifying stressors and risk factors and identifying possible relative placements for children if they require out of home interventions. Eco-maps assist us with understanding life circumstances from a family perspective. It provides a visual way of understanding the various pressures of daily living for the family.

These valuable tools have long been available to assist us in working together with families. In an effort to refocus and reach convergence with families on services and supports needed to reach the goals of safety, permanency, and well being; it is required that every new family entering into the system have a genogram and eco-map developed at the initial assessment phase. In addition, it is essential that the genogram and eco-map are reviewed and updated at periodic family team meetings or monthly home visits. These tools should also be reviewed at each and every placement change if the child(ren) reside in out of home care.

Information regarding genograms and eco-maps including formatting can be found on the internal web site at <http://www2.hhs.state.ne.us/jus2/jus2index.htm>. This information can also be located in the guidebook sections as follows: *Chapter 5, Case Management for Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Guidebook pp. 13 and 14* and *Chapter 6, Case Management for Juvenile Offenders and Status Offense Guidebook pp. 65, 66, and 67*. In addition, in your Permanent Resource Book provide at training by Nebraska Center for Children Family and the Law (CCFL) information regarding genograms and eco-maps is available in the Family/Child Assessment portion. Additional training on genograms and eco-maps can be made available by CCFL to the staff at the request of the service area.

Attached is a copy of the standard genogram and eco-map forms that will be used. We will be working to get the format into the NFOCUS system. If you choose to develop the genogram/eco-map using Microsoft Word, that information can be saved by utilizing the cut and paste icons to attach in the narrative section under family team meeting in NFOCUS presently.